

April 25, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Shirley Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, last week Senator Hasebroock and I were at a meeting in Chicago where we learned of some of the concerns of other states in this particular field. I would support the introduction of this bill. We need to be aware that this is soon to be a true crisis situation, not duck because it's near the end of the legislative session.

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support Senator Murphy in the introduction of this bill. There are several different proposals being considered by other states as to how to solve the problem. I assure you the problem is urgent and that we must get on with solving it. I would strongly urge that you introduce this bill. We can amend the form of it anyway we want to after it gets introduced. It doesn't make any difference which committee it gets assigned to as long as we get this job done this session.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Yes sir.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: You're saying that this insurance is positively unavailable to people in this state through private resources?

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator, the statement I would make is this, St. Paul Fire and Marine . . . and this is subject to limited understanding but my information is that St. Paul Fire and Marine are the only people writing malpractice insurance in Nebraska, medical malpractice, today. They tried to withdraw and the courts ordered them back into it. The nurses that were covered under Union Insurance . . . and I believe I have that name right, got notice that Union was withdrawing its program and would no longer cover them. This seems to be a tendency. Senator, to my knowledge, St. Paul is the only one writing in the state now.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: There is none of our current insurance companies underwriting this? You're going to provide that they will, mandate it?

SENATOR MURPHY: No Senator. All I'm going to do is set a hearing and let some evidence be developed in that regard and let the committee and this Legislature decide.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: It has nothing to do with the fact that the premiums are getting high? I also attended a meeting in December, a national meeting on this same issue.